Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

SECRETSTATE 225624

TOKYO FOR SHERMAN AND DELIVERY TO HOLBROOKE AT AIRPORT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: CUTS IN PHILIPPINE MILITARY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS

- 1. TOKYO PLEASE DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE WHO WILL ARRIVE HANEDA ON PAN AM FLIGHT 801 AT 1440 HOURS SEPTEMBER 21 AND DEPART ON NORTHWEST 3 FOR MANILA AT 1730 HOURS SAME DAY.
- 2. REPORT FROM MANILA PURVEYED BY KOKOY REFERS TO ORIGINAL HOUSE CUT AND NOT REPEAT NOT TO ANY MOVES FOR ADDITIONAL CUTS.
- 3. SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION BILL FOR FY 78 WILL GO TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 21 OR 22. CUTS IN PHILIPPINE PROGRAM MADE BY HOUSE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS SECRET

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WERE: GRANT MAP FROM DOLS 19.6 MILLION TO DOLS 16.6
MILLION; FMS BY DOLS 3 MILLION IN PROGRAM AUTHORITY (FROM DOLS 20 MILLION); AND TRAINING FUNDS FROM DOLS .8 MILLION
TO DOLS .6 MILLION. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY
FURTHER CUTS WILL FOLLOW FROM WORK OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.
HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD CUTS WILL BE RESTORED
ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT AND DOD HAVE LOBBIED FOR RESTORATION.

WE WILL INFORM YOU IMMEDIATELY OF ANY ACTION TAKEN BY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BEFORE YOUR RETURN.

4. PHILIPPINE CHARGE BELISARIO CALLED ON FLECK SEPT 20 TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. BELISARIO SAID ROMULO HAD TELEPHONED HIM PREVIOUS EVENING TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF APPROPRIATION BILL AND STATE DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO HAVE CUTS RESTORED. BELISARIO TOLD ROMULO BILL IN HANDS OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, OF WHICH CONGRESSWOMAN BURKE, ORIGINATOR OF CUTS, WAS MEMBER. THERE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD, THEREFORE, IN BELISARIO'S OPINION, THAT CUTS WOULD BE RESTORED. ROMULO THEN ASKED BELISARIO TO ASCERTAIN STATE DEPARTMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD BILL.

- 5. FLECK INFORMED BELISARIO THAT DEPARTMENT HAD MADE VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO PREVENT CUTS, INCLUDING INTENSIVE ROUND OF CONVERSATIONS BY HOLBROOKE, AND AS RESULT CUTS WERE NOT NEARLY AS EXTENSIVE AS HAD AT FIRST BEEN PROPOSED. SINCE HOUSE ACTION, FLECK ADDED, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING AS VIGOROUSLY AS APPEARED TACTICALLY WISE FOR RESTORATION OF CUTS. DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME RESTORATION BUT IS NOT COUNTING ON IT.
- 6. YOU MAY INFORM MARCOS THAT AS A ONE-TIME EXCEPTION WITHOUT ESTABLISHING PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE, WE CAN MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOP AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 30 MILLION IN FMS FINANCING FOR APPLICATION TO FY 77 PROGRAM. THESE FUNDS SECRET

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RESULT FROM INTERNAL REALLOCATION OF FMS UNEXPENDED BY OTHER RECIPIENTS AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONGRESSION-AL APPROVAL. THIS IS INDICATION OF OUR CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINES BUT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS INDICATING IMPROVED POSSIBILITIES FOR FY 79 OR BASE AGREEMENT COMPENSATION. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.

7. PLEASE NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION. VANCE

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NNN

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Subject: CUTS IN PHILIPPINE MILITARY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS

TAGS: MASS, RP, US

To: TOKYO Type: TE

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